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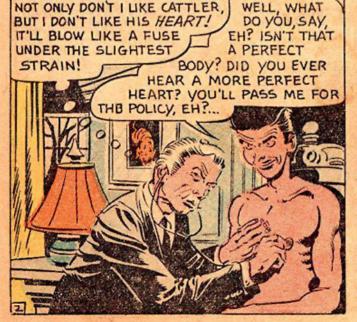






I SHOULD SAY























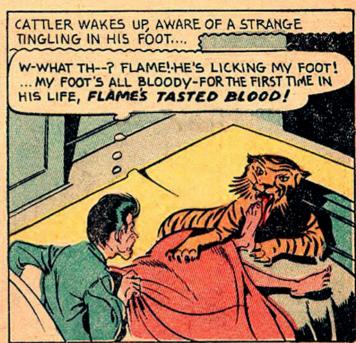
















BUT AS CATTLER MOVES TO WITHDRAW HIS

LEG, FLAME MOVES TO KEEP IT THERE ..











































CATTLER'S TIGER ... DEAD!

SEARCH OF LAWN REVEALS

CATTLER DEAD...IN FRONT OF THE VERY JAWS OF HIS STUFFED TIGER! BUT HOW DID HE COME HERE AND WHY? WHAT WAS HE RUNNING AWAY FROM WHEN FLAME LAY DEAD IN THE HOUSE? ...OR WAS HE DEAD? HMM...WE'LL NEVER KNOW!











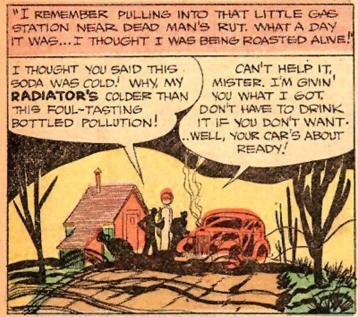








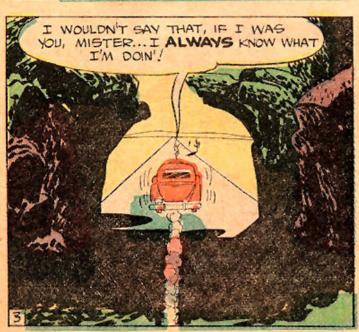






































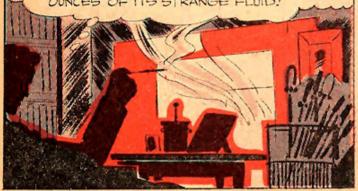






BUT NOBODY KNEW THE SECRET OF HIS SUCCESS, AND NOBODY KNEW HIS SORROW, EXCEPT MYRON MORGAN!

LITTLE DOES ANYBODY KNOW THAT THE "GENIUS"
BEHIND ALL THIS WEALTH AND POWER LIES
STOPPED UP IN A DIRTY OLD MEDICINE BOTTLE!
JUST AS MY LIFE IS CONTAINED IN A FEW
OUNCES OF ITS STRANGE FLUID!



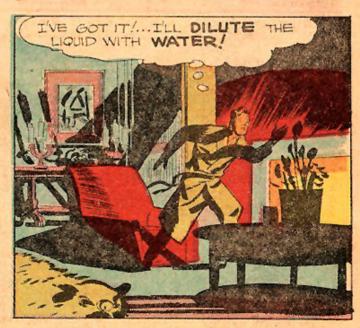


















MEVERY ATTEMPT FAIL-ED-THEN ONE DAY, ANOTHER IDEA STRUCK HIM!

JANUARY



I'LL MAKE FREMI, THE FAMOUS





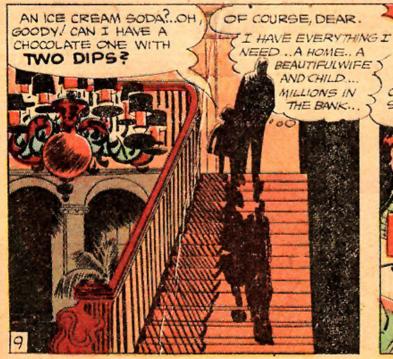
































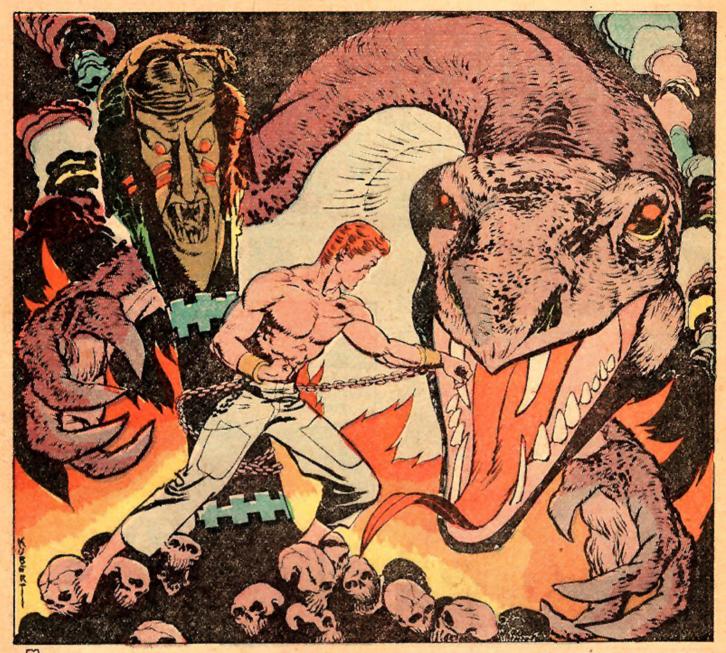












U.S. MITCHELL BOMBER, ON A REGULAR CHARTING AND AERIAL EXPLORATION FLIGHT FROM
ITS BASE IN THE SOUTH PACIFIC, RUNS INTO AN UNFORSEEN STORM... STRUGGLING TO
REMAIN ALOFT, LITTLE DO THE AIRMEN KNOW THE HORRIBLE FATE THAT AWAITS THEM
ON THE ISLAND OF THE WAY A VIETNICE TO THEM













BERT'LL KEEP HERE! THEN AFTER
I GET MIKEY OUT, I'LL HAVE TO
REACH THAT WING! I STILL DON'T
KNOW WHAT'S KEEPIN' THIS
HUNK OF CEMENT AFLOAT!



MIKEY, PLEAGE ... DON'T CONK







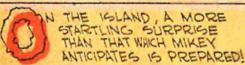


























LOOK WHAT THEY'RE UP TO! - THEY'RE GOING TO TRAIL BERT'S BODY IN THE WATER ... BUT THE SHARKS ... THANK GOD, HE'S UNCONCIOUS



MIKEY... Y
ARE YOU
THINKING
OF WHAT'S
COING TO
HAPPEN TO
US?

YEAH BUT I'M AFRAID TH' CHIEFS GOT A BETTER DIMAGIN-ATION



AND ALL THAT
REMAINS OF SGT.
ALBERT WHITE, U.S.
AIR GORPS, IS A
SLIGHTLY BLOODTINGED PACIFIC
OCEAN...



ATER, THROUGH THE STREETS OF THE SAVAGE VILLAGE ...

BOSS, FIRST WE THOUGHT JOE AN' LENNY WERE UNLIKY GOING DOWN WITH THE PLANE, THEN SERGEANT WHITE, ATE UP BY SHARKS! NOW I THINK WE'RE THE UNLUCKY ONES! MIKE

NOTICE HOW MANY LIZARD FETISHES THERE ARE IN THIS VILLAGES

























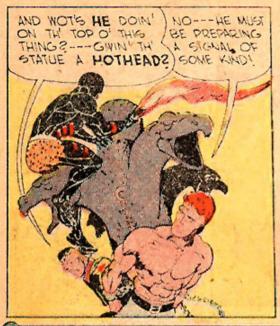
WHERE TO MAYBE THIS TIME FOR GOOD, JUDGING BY HIS GESTURES!

TO ME IT LOOKS
LIKE HE'S BEEFIN'
SOMETHIN' BOUT
FOOD --- ABOUT
EATIN'! G-GOSH,
SAM--- YOU
DON'T THINK---?
DON'T THINK---?
US!

THEN, OUT OF THE TEMPLE,
THROUGH THE VILLAGE
AND ITS MYSTERIOUS WALL,
INTO THE STEAMING JUNGLE...
WONDER WHAT THAT WALL IS
FORS A PROTECTION OF SOME





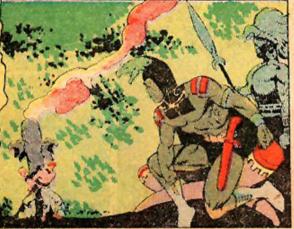






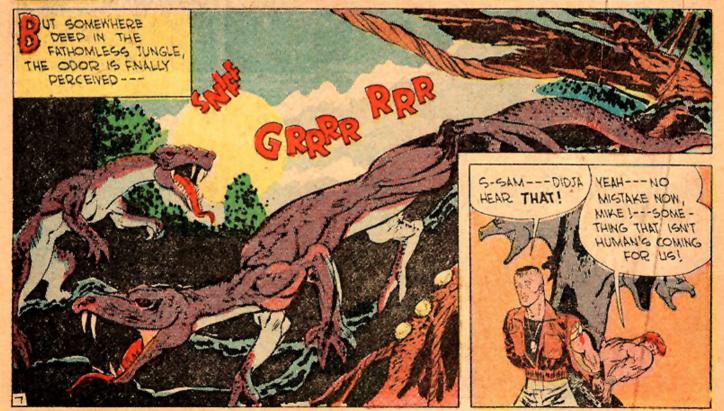


HE
VILLAGERG
RETURN TO
THEIR HOMEG!
ALL EXCEPT
NIKA, THE
CHIEF... NIKA
AND HIG
BODYGUARDG
REMAIN TO
WITNEGG
THE

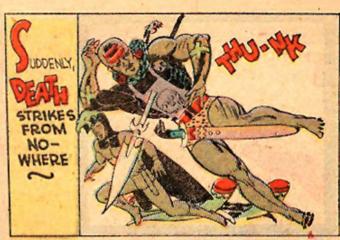


THE JUNGLE ---























FTER BINDING NIKA TO THE GACRIFICIAL POST, THE FOUR NEW-FOUND FRIENDS HEAR THE THUNDERING ROARS GETTING CLOSER!









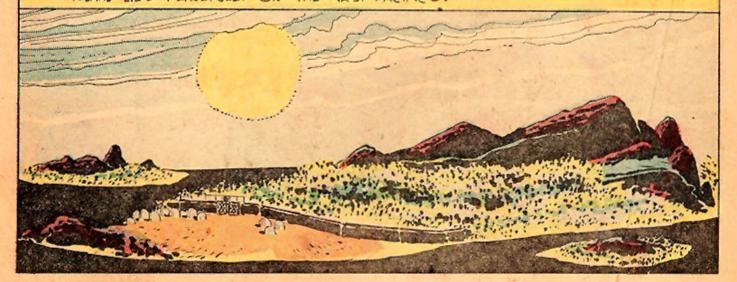


AS THE SKY REDDENG WITH DAWN, FAR OUT AT GEA, FAR FROM THE ISLAND OF THE MAN-EATING LIZAROS-

FIRST THEY SAVE US THE REPORT I'M MAKING OUT WHEN FROM SOLVING THE MEAT SHORTAGE FOR WE GET BACK TO LIZARDS, THEN THEY BAGE! THE U.S.A. TELL US WHERE TO YHAS A LOT OF FIND PEACEFUL NATIVES!) BARBARISM TO LAST OF ALL, THEY'RE WIPE OUT AND A NUTS ABOUT US!-LOT OF LIZARD-WHAT COULD BE HUNTING TO DO, SWEETER SAM ? BEFORE THIS OLD PACIFIC OCEAN IS



SAM AND MIKE REACHED THEIR BASE A FEW DAYS LATER .. A BOMBER SQUADRON MAKES SHORT WORK OF THE ISLAND'S STRANGE, BLOODTHIRSTY INHABITANTS --- AND NOW, THE ISLAND LIES PEACEFULLY ON THE VAST PACIFIC S

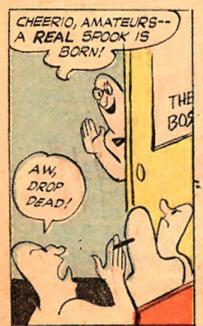


















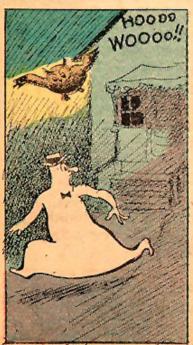


















The door opened and a pleasantlooking girl with a quiet gaze led Mr. Grohson into the sitting room.

"My sister will be down presently," said the girl, disappearing with his

coat and hat.

Grohson wondered what Mrs. Grohson would be like, whether she, too, would give him the cold reception he had received in this gloomy little village. A district attorney come to a village to convict a native son of murder despite the man's passionate denial of it, cannot be very popular with the townspeople when they are in

sympathy with the accused.

At any rate, there was a strong fire blazing in the fireplace to offset the November cold. Grohson took a position in front of the snapping blaze and spread grateful palms toward the warmth. He look down at his feet, surprised that they should remain so cold in spite of the fire. But drafts of cool air were coming from somewhere inside the house. As he crouched near the floor in front of the fireplace, moving his hands about, slowly, suspiciously, the girl returned.

Grohson caught sight of her and stood erect. "Seems to be a draft somewhere in the house," he commented, by way of explaining his actions.

The girl did not reply. She took a

seat at the opposite end of the room and folded her hands in her lap.

"How long do you mean to stay?" asked the girl, following an embar-

rassing stillness.

"That's hard to say. It depends." Clearly, this girl shared the attitude of the villagers, who seemed satisfied with the defendant's explanation that he shot and killed his brother, thinking him a robber . . . What a naive alibi! Perhaps, Grohson frequently mused, only a guiltless man could be so unsubtle as to base his defense on a momentary, though fatal, delusion.

"Do you know anything about my

older sister?" inquired the girl.

"Very little. Only that she had a few rooms for tourists."

"Then you know next to nothing

about her?" persisted the girl.

"Only her name and address," acknowledged the visitor. Why was the girl so insistent? Grohson wondered what there was about the house that made him feel nervous. Had it anything to do with Mrs. Brougham? And then, that blamed, shivery draft along the floor! Grim lines appeared along the girl's mouth. A certain harshness entered her voice.

"My sister's tragedy happened exactly one year ago," said the girl. "I don't suppose anybody told you."

"Her tragedy?" repeated Grohson.
"You may be curious why we keep



the rear door open on a cold November day," said the girl, rising and walking toward the hallway. She nodded to Grohson and Grohson followed her. The kitchen door leading to the garage of the house was wide open and blasts of freezing air gusted madly into the room. The door was restrained from violent swinging by a cord tied around the doorknob and fixed to a steampipe behind the door. Grohson's jaws gaped with amazement.

"I don't understand," gasped Grohson, quailing before the winds that whipped into the kitchen. "What has this open door got to do with your

sister's tragedy?"

"Through that door, one year ago to the day, my brother-in-law and his son went for a drive. They never came back. In crossing a bridge they swerved to avoid collision with a car coming from the opposite direction and crashed through the guard rails, falling fifty feet into the river . . . where they drowned. It was days before their bodies were recovered. When they were, the corpses looked too gruesome to be exhibited and were never seen by my sister. That's the terrible part of it." Here the girl's voice lost its reserve and broke down into something stumblingly pathetic. "Poor Helen always thinks that her husband and son will come

back one day, and burst in through that door laughing as they used to do. That is why the door is left open every afternoon until it is quite dark. Do you know, Mr. Grohson, sometimes on a crisp, icy afternoon like this, I myself get an eerie feeling that they will come in again through that door—"

The girl broke off with a shudder that was not occasioned by the cold. Then, despondently, they returned to the sitting room, where Grohson sat for a time, staring unhappily into the fireplace. The girl just looked at the floor at her feet. Then, suddenly, Mrs. Brougham flurried into the room with a swirl of apologies for being so late.

"I hope Clara has been entertain-

ing you?" she said.

"Your sister has been most inter-

esting," replied Grohson.

"I hope you don't mind our open door," Mrs. Brougham went on. "My husband and son will soon be at home. They just went down to the railroad station to pick up some gardening tools."

"Have you any children, Mr. Grohson?" Mrs. Brougham asked very sweetly. Grohson replied gruffly that he wasn't fortunate enough to be married. Mrs. Brougham continued to talk about Teddy and her husband.

—As if they were actually going to

enter the room at any moment. Grohson listened with horror to a whole series of anecdotes about the little family. The thing was so appalling!

—Mrs. Brougham would remain unchanged forever. And the door! . . . That door would be open forever, awaiting people who could never materialize in this life!

It was in the midst of some inconsequential debate that Mrs. Brougham straightened up in alertness... She raised her finger and cocked her head brightly. "They're

coming!" she said.

Grohson looked at the girl in amazement. The girl's face was a

blank. Her eyes widened.

Mrs. Brougham clasped her hands joyously. "Back just in time for Ted-

dy's afternoon milk!"

The girl rose hastily and began to comfort her older sister, who protested, "What are you talking about, Clara...they're NOT coming? Why, I head them distinctly! Ben's car is making the turn into the driveway now!"

It was true. The cold coughing of a car was audible. The girl's eyes started from her head as she heard something roar to a stop behind the house. Mrs. Brougham's face was wreathed in smiles. "They're back! They're back!" she cried, rapturously. Grohson felt faint. Even the draft along the floor grew colder. Outside, a car door slammed and voices rang forth in a merry argument. The girl tossed a glance at the hallway leading to the kitchen and then began to shrink toward the fireplace, with one hand clutching her throat. Grohson knew the blood was drained from his own face. A heavy footfall sounded in the hallway and then a quick patter of feet. Mrs. Brougham sprang to the hallway and shouted, "Darling!" Her arms were outstretched gayly. Both Grohson and the girl stood shoulder to shoulder, their backs to the fire, terror crystalizing in their ashen-pale faces. They screamed simultaneously as a little,

child bounded into the room and a tall, strapping fellow in a plaid mackinaw took Mrs. Brougham in his

laughing embrace.

"That's Mr. Grohson, darling," introduced Mrs. Brougham, indicating the shricking man at the fireplace. Brougham came at Grohson with a large hand cordially extended. "Put it there!" he boomed. Grohson struck wildly at the apparition's hand and filled the room with his shricks. The girl was shricking, too, her hands to her temples, but a strange note had crept into her voice. Grohson, whose heart felt like ice, stared at the girl. She was . . . LAUGHING!—Could it be hysteria?

But Mrs. Brougham was laughing, too. And Teddy, her dead child! And Mr. Brougham!—Why, he was roaring with mirth, tears coursing down his cheeks! Grohson stopped screaming and watched them, struck dumb

with astonishment.

"Why are you all . . . l-laughing?" he managed to say, haltingly, fearfully. The girl pointed a finger at Grohson, narrowed her eyes, and stopped laughing. So did the others, completely. The room was silent as a tomb.

"There, Mr. Prosecutor . . . there is your proof! Your PROOF, do you hear! So you don't believe in illusions! You didn't believe George Macready's story about how he accidentally shot his brother! What do you say NOW, eh? Is it possible to have delusions? Is it possible to mistake people, eh? — Even the LIVING for the DEAD?"

In a moment, district attorney Grohson understood everything. It had all been an ingenious, chilling trick! He bowed his head. He had learned something. And he never for-

got his lesson.

To witness: Two weeks later, George Macready was released from murder charges. Mr. Grohson's grounds for dropping the case: Macready had an illusion . . . a very strange illusion!











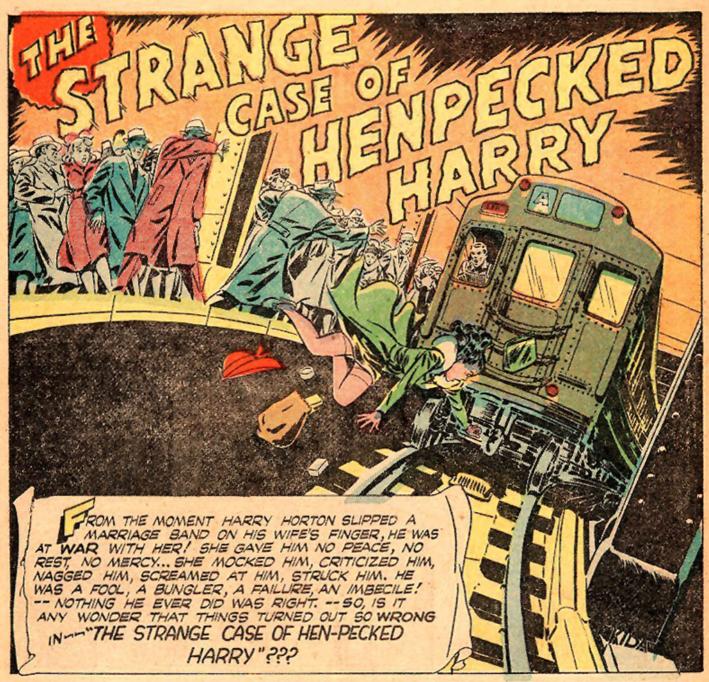






--HE KILLED THAT POOR TRAMP UPSTAIRS IN THE LIBRARY--AND WOULD'VE KILLED US--THINKING WE WERE AFTER HIS FOOL'S GOLD! RUPERT, NOW WE CAN TELL THE POLICE THE MYSTERY OF MURDER MANSION!





















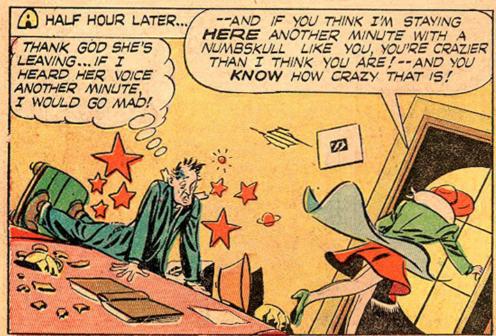












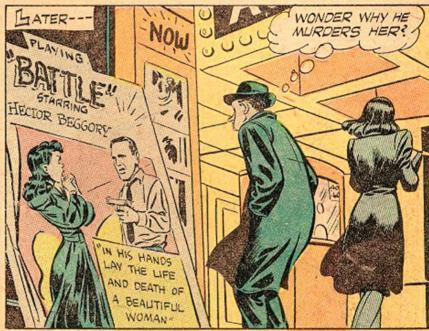
























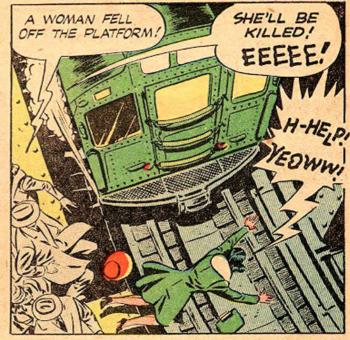
































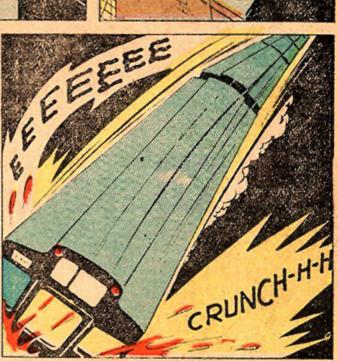














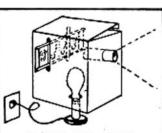








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